

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SANAA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION NATO
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCLANT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, US, UK, XO

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA

1. FCO HAS SENT TO ALL INTERESTED UK DIPLOMATIC POSTS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON RN AND U.S. NAVY DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. YOU MAY ALSO DRAW UPON THIS INFORMATION AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES REVEHO DIEGO GARCIA AND INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS.

2. "THE RN HAS FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS DEPLOYED UP TO 6 FRIGATES EAST OF THE CAPE IN ORDER TO MEET OUR VARIOUS COMMITMENTS IN THE AREA, E.G., THE BEIRA PATROL AND THE FIVE POWER DEFENCE ARRANGEMENTS. AT ANY ONE TIME ONE OR TWO OF THESE FRIGATES WOULD HAVE BEEN TRANSITTING OR OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IN ADDITION, THE CRUISER UNCLASSIFIED

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HMS BLAKE AND THE SUBMARINE HMS DREADNOUGHT LAST YEAR DEPLOYED IN THE EAST OF THE CAPE AREA SPENDING A TOTAL OF ABOUT FIVE WEEKS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN."

3. "THE FIRST GROUP OF SHIPS CONSISTING OF 6 WARSHIPS PLUS SUPPORT VESSELS DEPLOYED UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM OF "GROUP OPERATING" LEFT THE UK EARLIER THIS YEAR. THERE WILL BE AT LEAST THIS NUMBER OF VESSELS EAST OF THE CAPE FOR A TOTAL

OF ABOUT TEN MONTHS EACH YEAR. A GROUP IS AT PRESENT
IN THE NORTH WEST INDIAN OCEAN/PERSIAN GULF AREA WHERE IT

WILL REMAIN FOR ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH. THEREAFTER SOME
VESSELS WILL VISIT THE AREA PERIODICALLY."

4. "FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS THE ONLY PERMANENT U.S. NAVAL
PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA HAS CONSISTED OF THE
U.S. MIDDLE EAST FORCE FLAGSHIP (INITIALLY A CONVERTED
SEAPLANE TENDER, BUT MORE RECENTLY A CONVERTED AMPHIBIOUS
SHIP) HOMEPORTED IN BAHRAIN AND TWO ROTATIONALLY DEPLOYED
DESTROYER TYPE SHIPS. ADDITIONAL U.S. FORCES HAVE VISITED
THE AREA FROM TIME TO TIME AND HAVE CONDUCTED UNILATERAL
AS WELL AS JOINT EXERCISES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA.
U.S. NAVY SHIPS HAVE ALSO USED THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A
TRANSIT ROUTE. A TASK GROUP LED BY THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER
USS ENTERPRISE WAS DEPLOYED TO THE AREA DURING THE 1971
INDO/PAKISTAN WAR. LAST FALL, IN CONSONANCE WITH HER
LONG STANDING POLICY OF PERIODIC DEPLOYMENTS TO THE
INDIAN OCEAN, THE U.S. DEPLOYED SEQUENTIALLY TWO CARRIER
TASK GROUPS AND SOME REPLENISHMENT SHIPS TO THE AREA.
CURRENTLY, A SMALL TASK GROUP LED BY THE USS BAINBRIDGE
IS DEPLOYED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN." RUSH

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